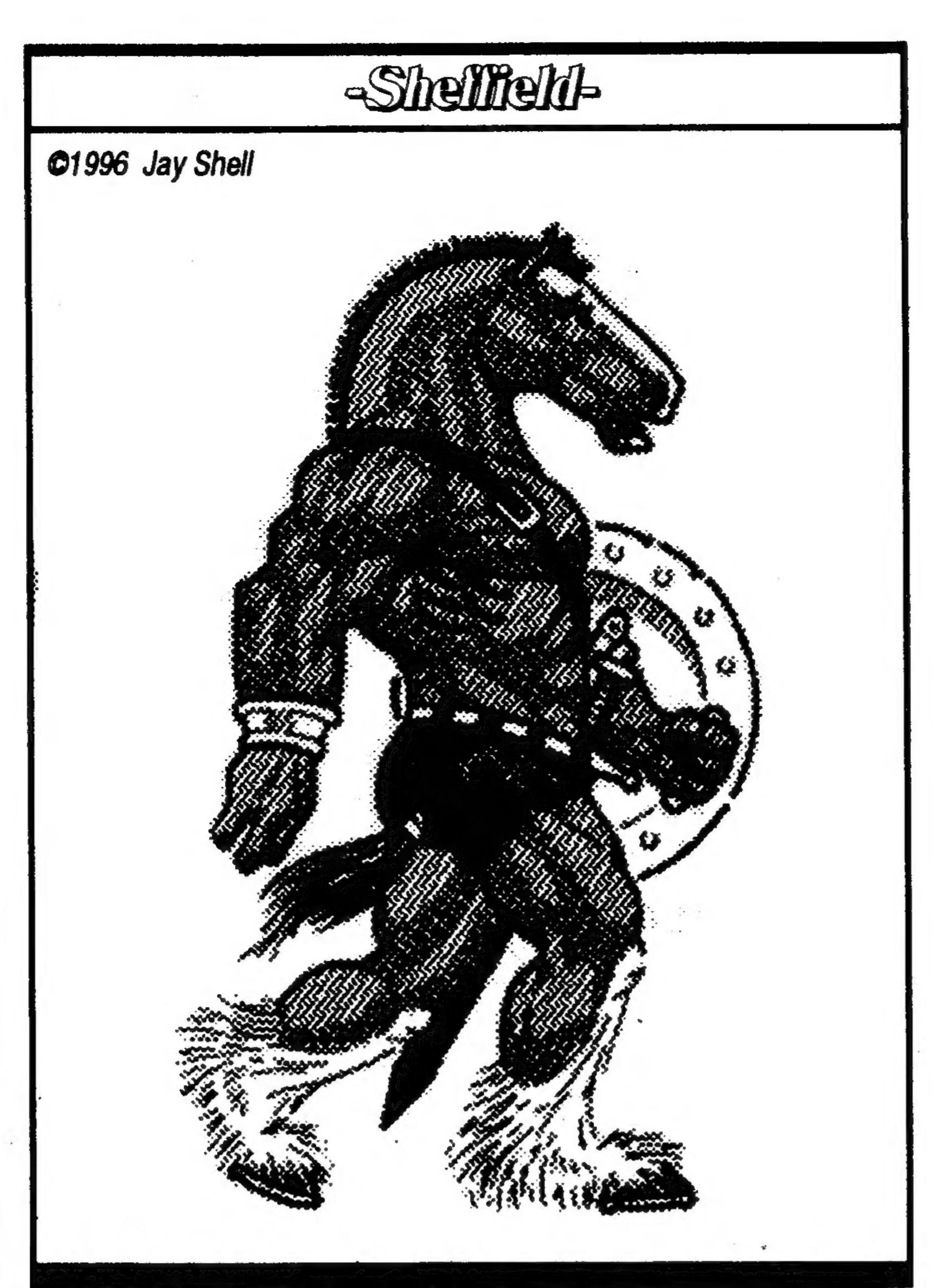




1426) Published by MU PRESS. 5014-D Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle. WA 98105: "Frontiers" @1996 Adrian Kleinbergen; "Robert & Katrina: Deadline In Black & White ©1996 Kris Kreutzman; 'Zonie' @1996 Michael-Scot McMurry: "Sheffield: The Refuctant Horse Thief" @1996 Jay Shell. All rights reserved. No material herein may be copied or reproduced in any manner whatsoever without prior consent of the creator texcepting butboses of review). This is a work of Itom. Any similarity between names, characters, and/or persons nerein and any persons living or dead spurely coincidental. "... Where's the earth-shattering KA-BOOM!!! First Printing.

MU PUB #300



In just two months!

Gunter by Bill Schmickle: a cat can't even heist a car radio when he encounters a much-too-playful junkyard dog!

Hader & the Colonel by Donna Barr: the Colonel has to deal with a love-sick harpy... and poor Hader is stuck in the middle! Plus, more Zonie and Robert & Katrina!

-Toddf



Next month... the summer revels begin! Watch for the second issue of our new Anime fanzine, Cyberwerx, and then get ready for the summer comic conventions! MU will be at San Diego Comicon with four new releases (including the first Wild Kingdom Annual), and AEON will have five new books as well.

You say you haven't had your fill of Captain Jack and the gang yet!? Well, have I got a deal for you! The second volume of classic reprints will be out this summer, so watch this space, and be zorch, daddio!

Also On Sale!

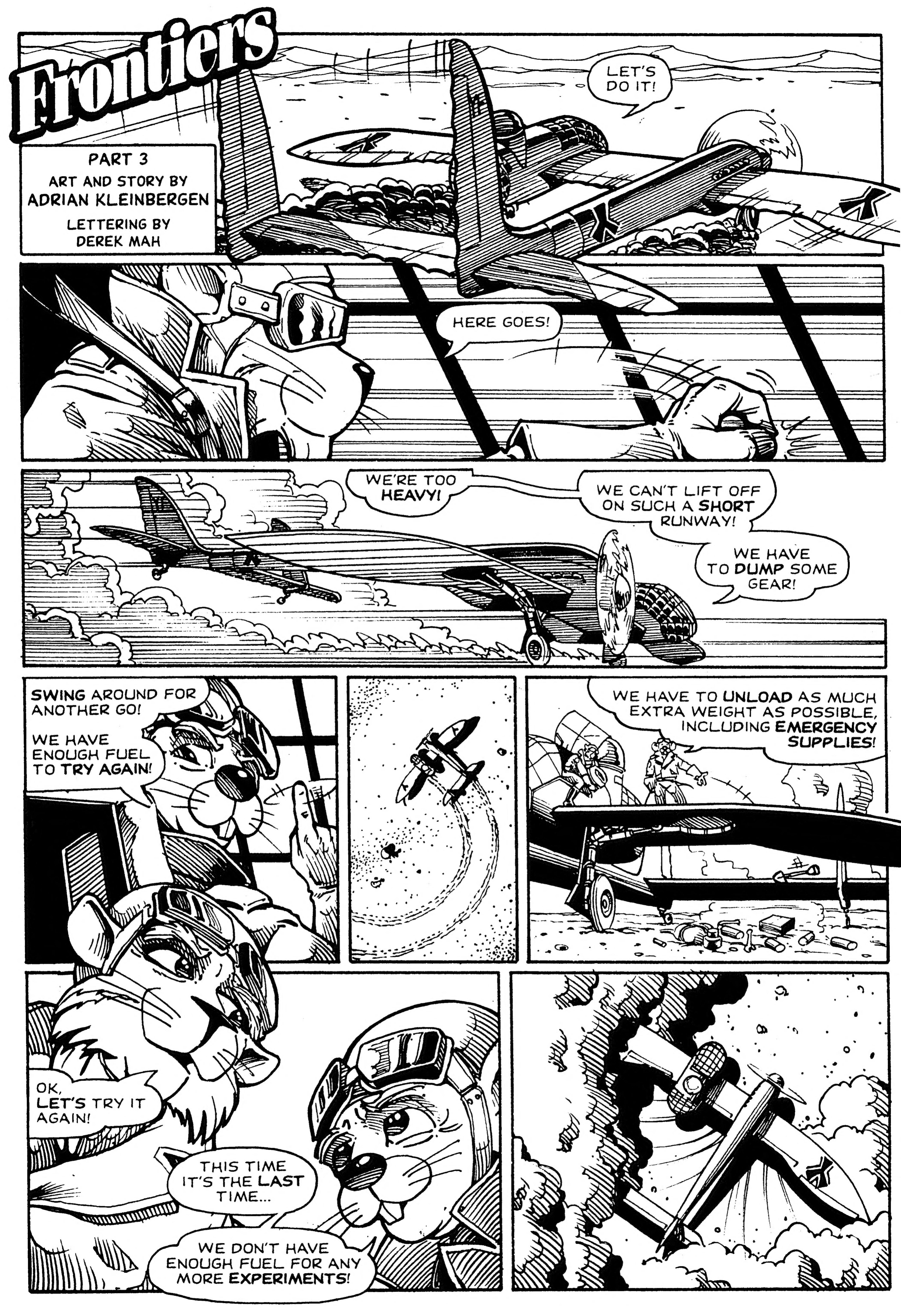
Wild Kingdom #7 - Featuring brand new stories by Riley, Oliver, and Oscar Marcus. Adults only! You must be 18 or older to order!

Quick Plug Time: Look for The Magician's Village - The Prelude, from Mad Monkey Press; \$10.95.





Felicia, that vixen of a sorceress, will soon be returning. Keep watch for her appearance here in **ZU**.

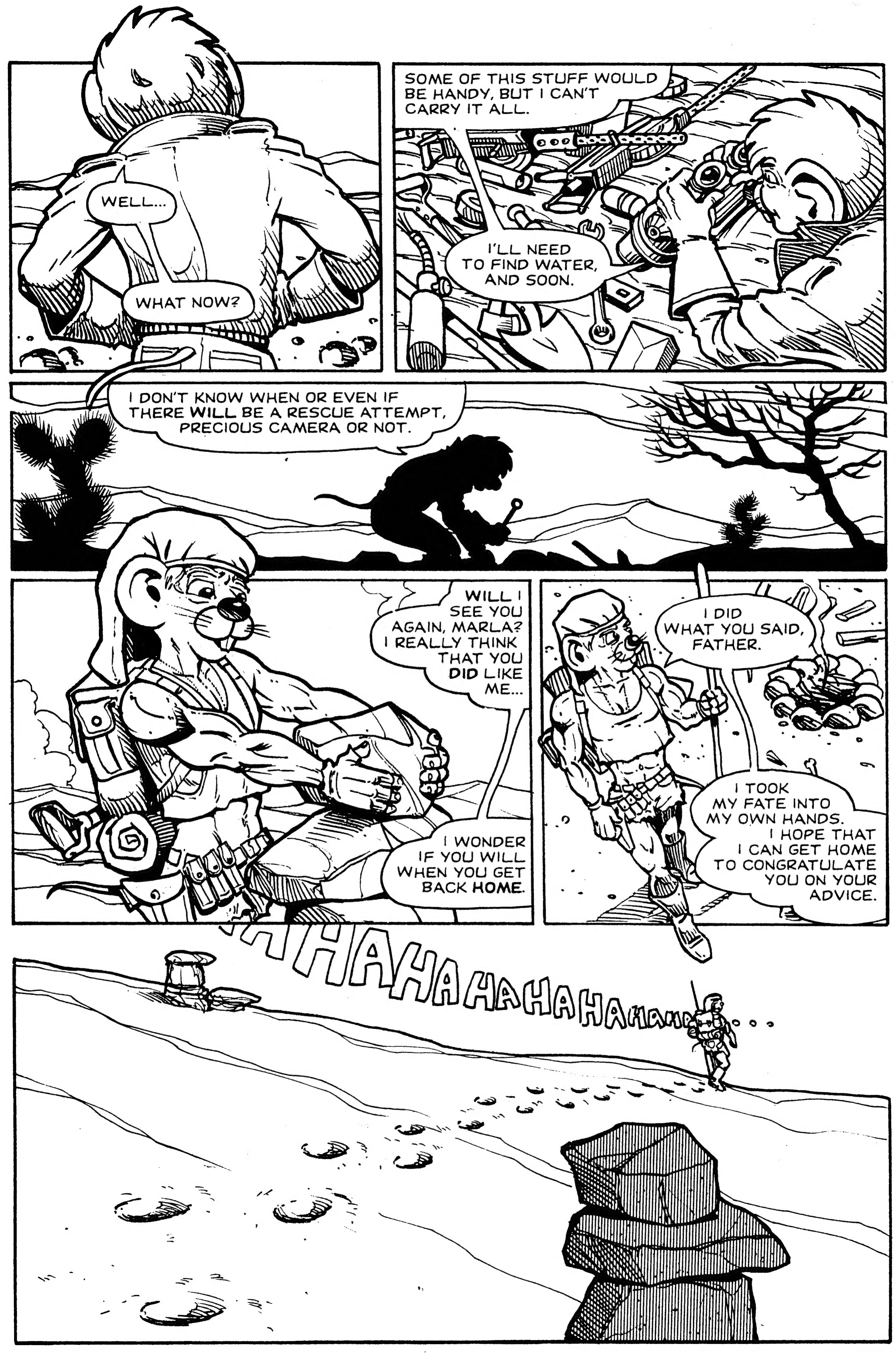








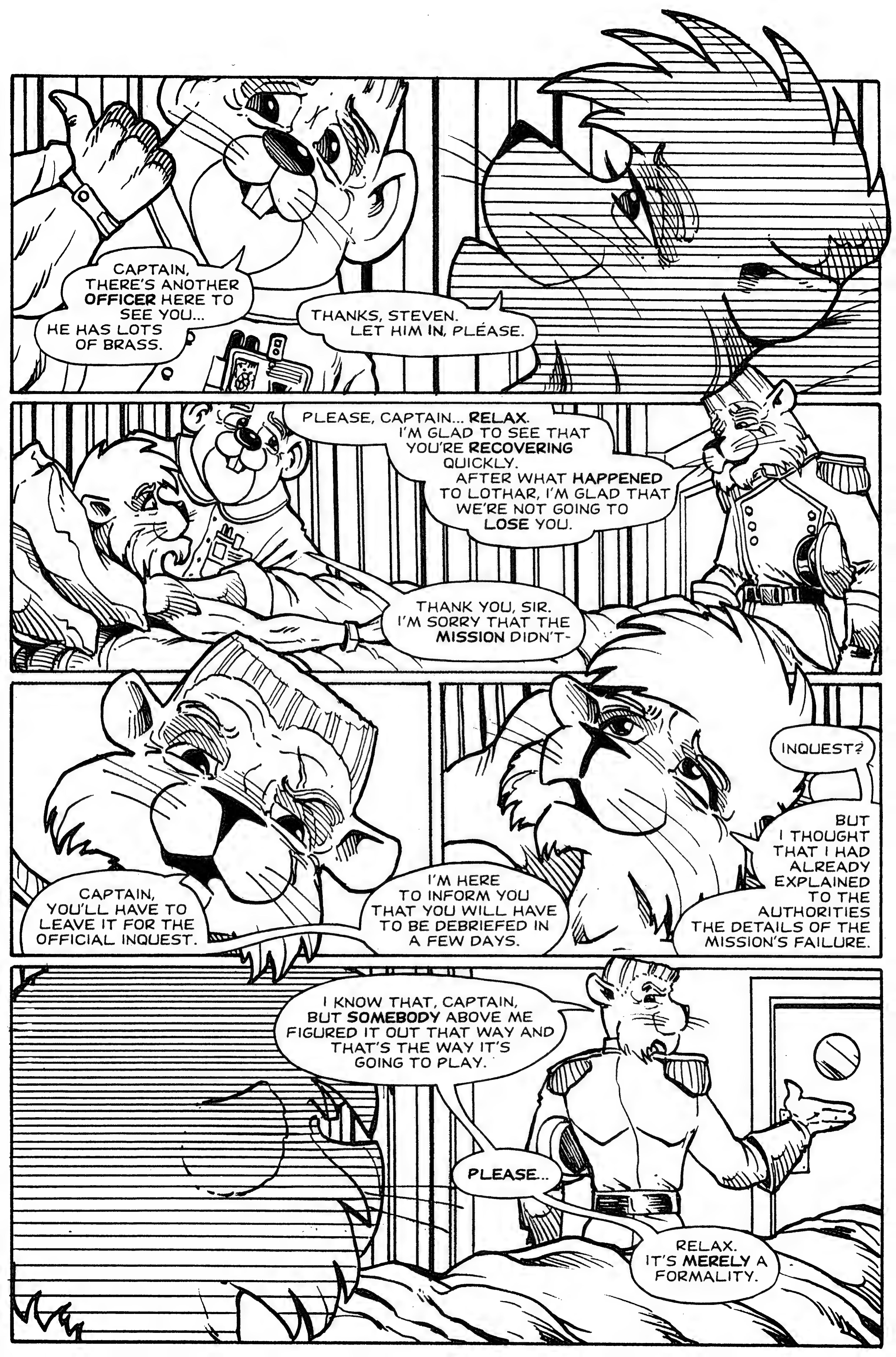


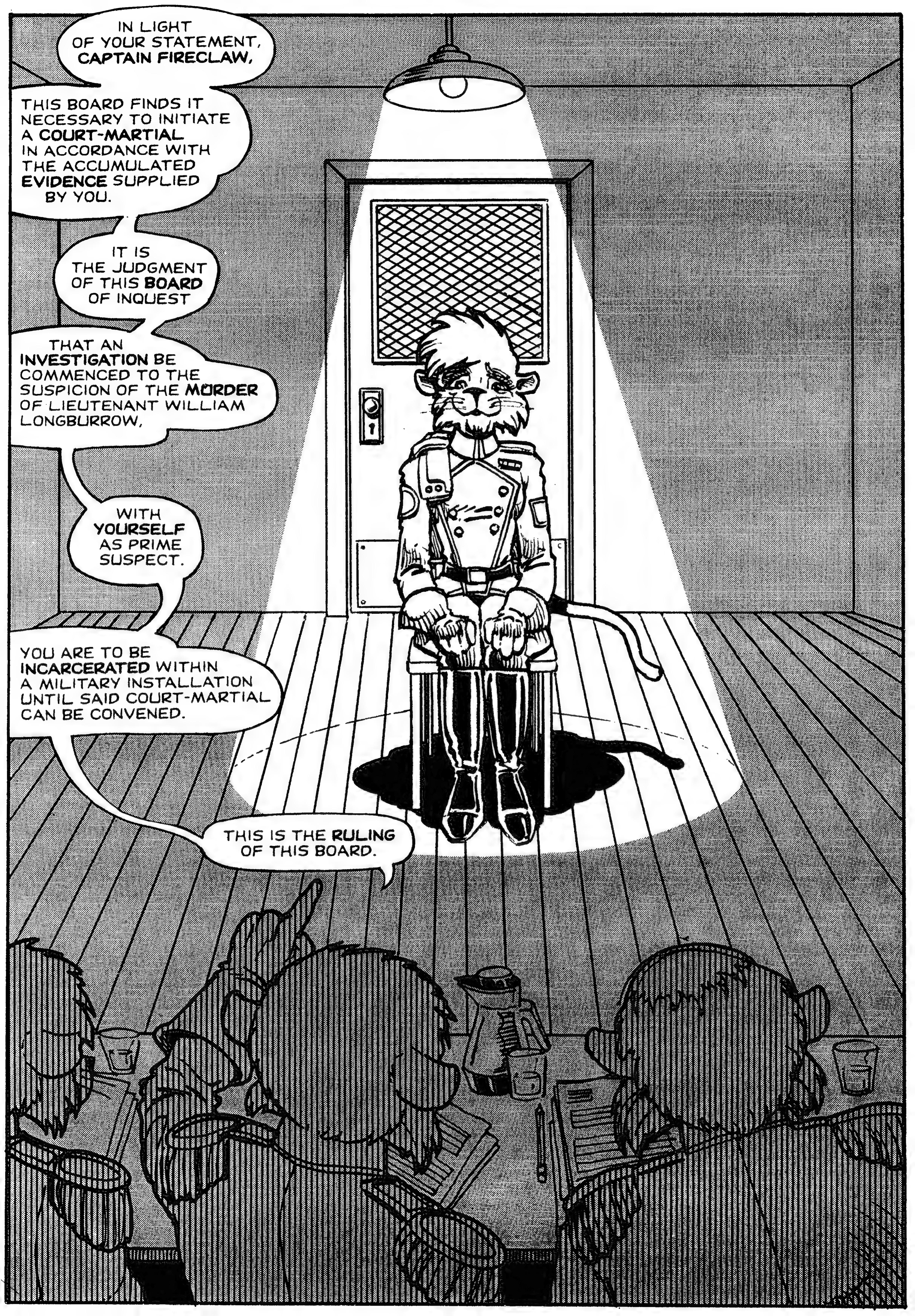


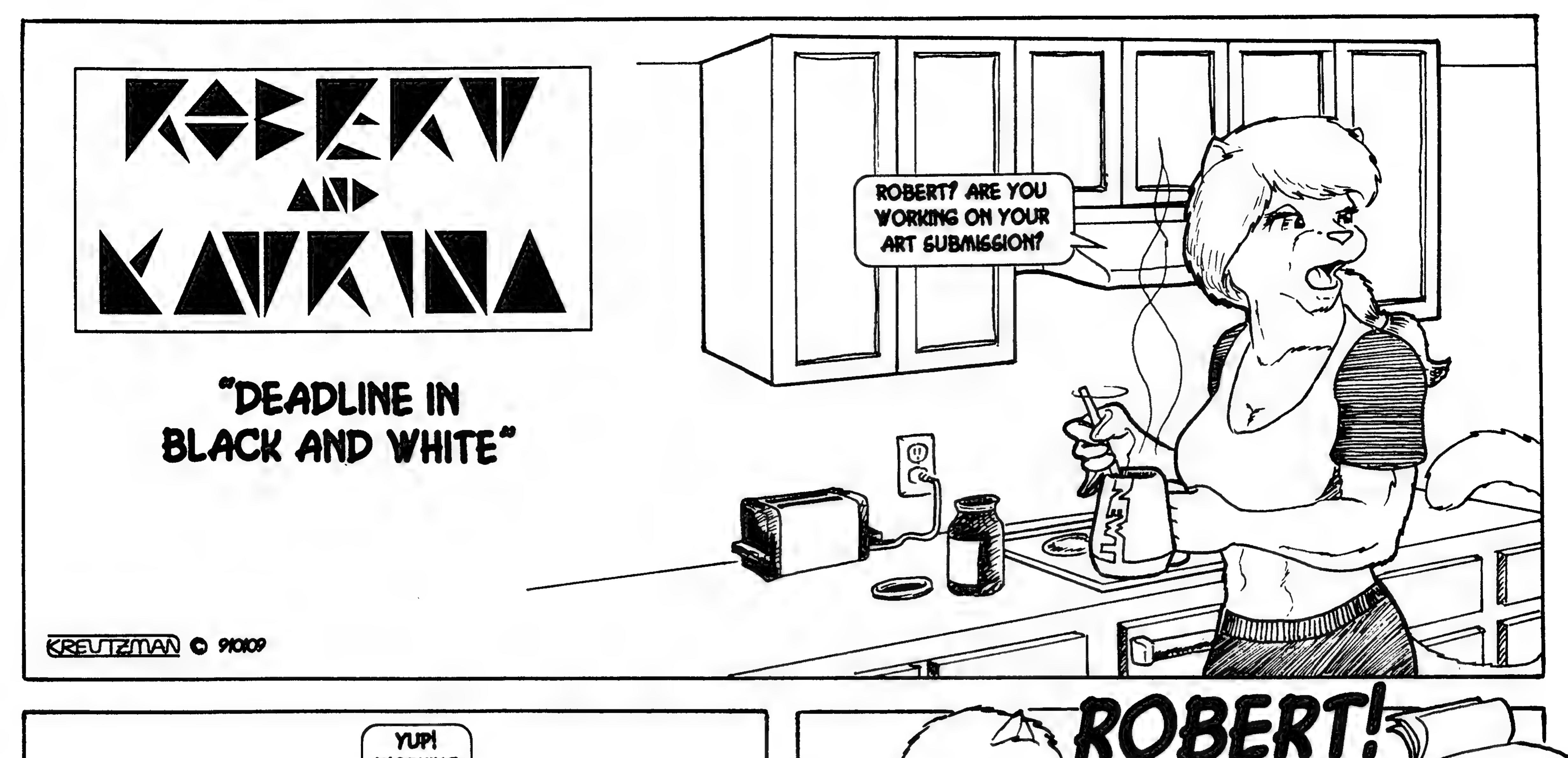


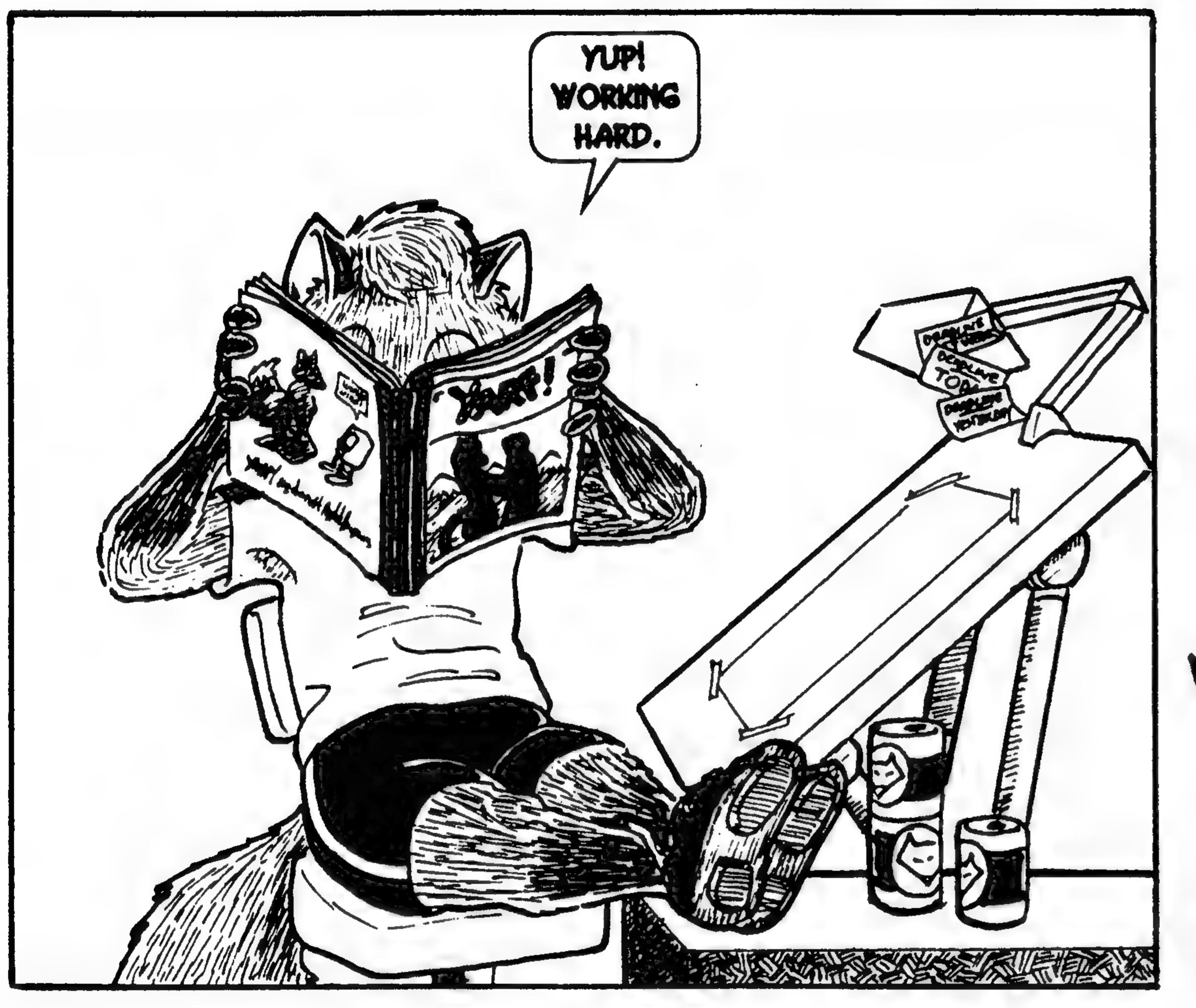




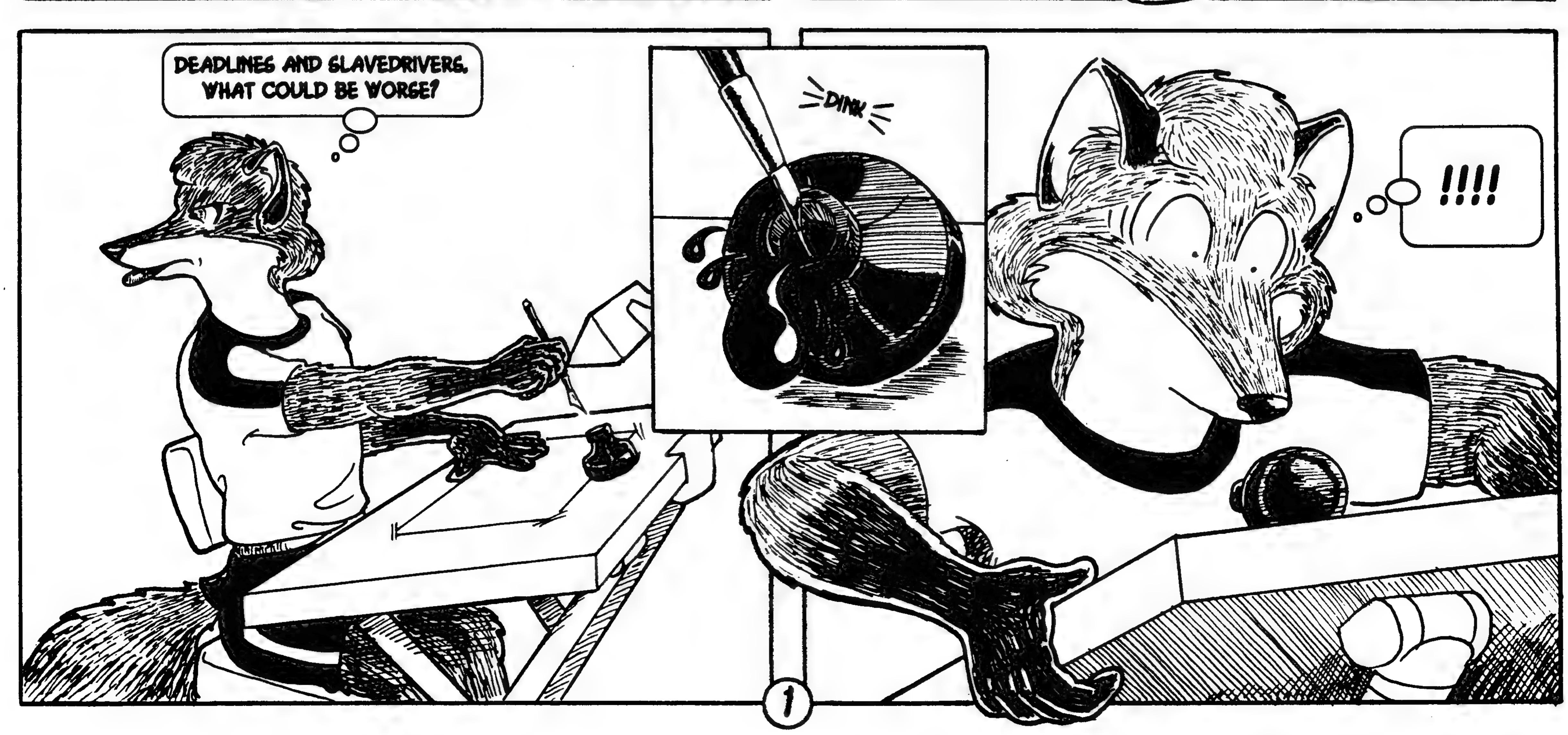










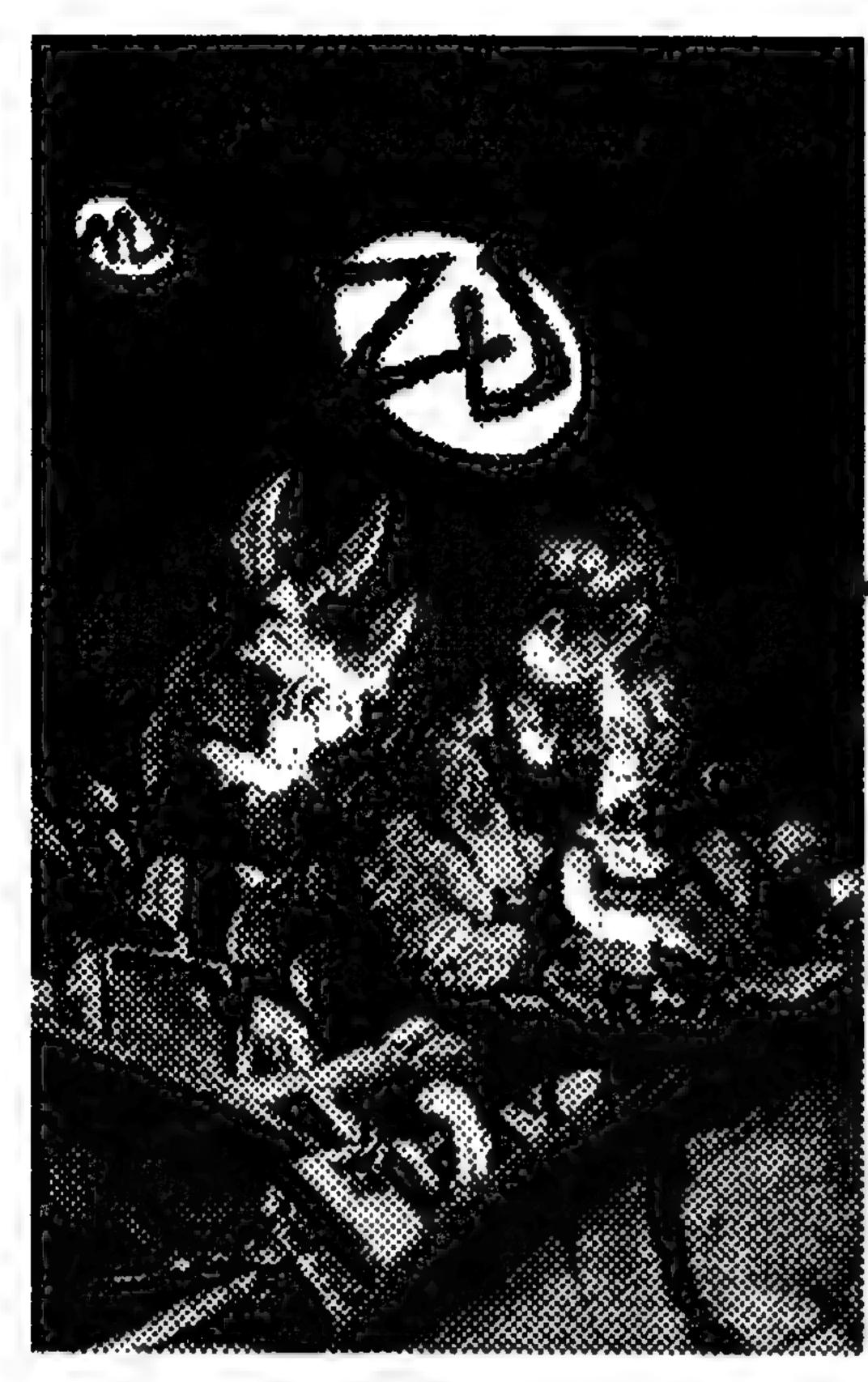


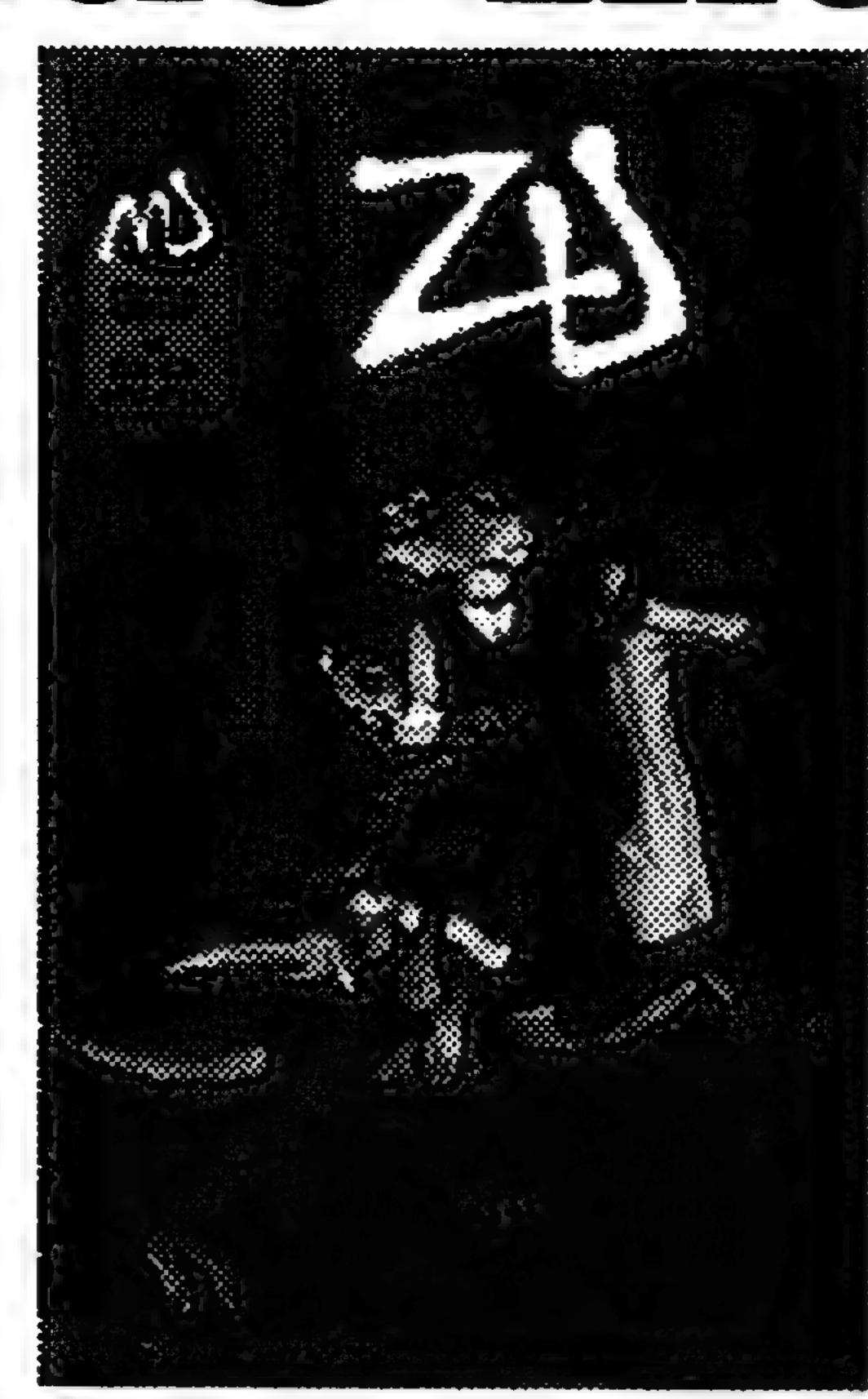


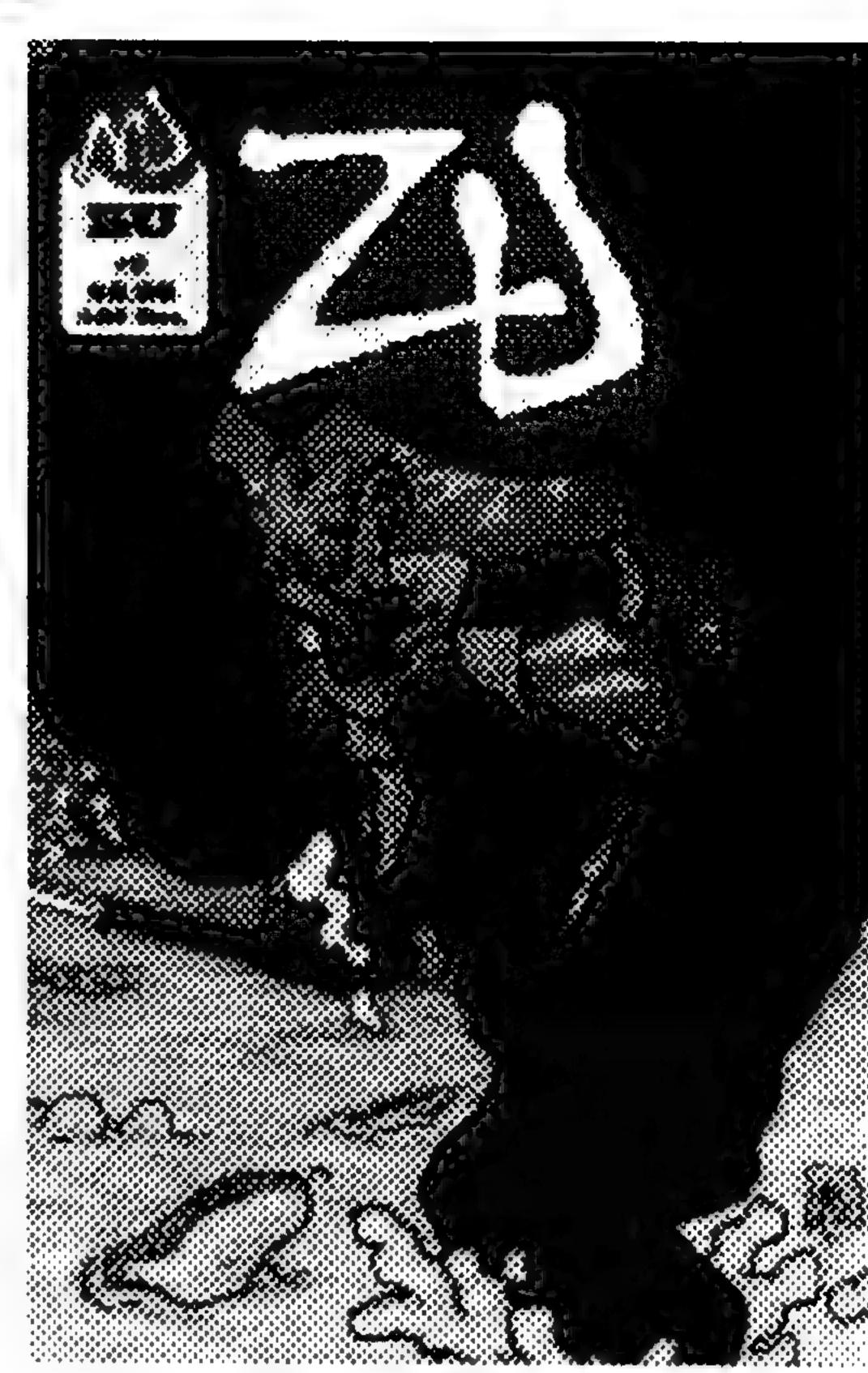


Recently, I was asked for an index to ZU. I thought it sounded like a pretty good idea, so here's an index and crossreference for the first nine regular issues, plus the one-shot from a couple of years earlier. We may do this from time to time, maybe at the end of each year, so keep your copies handy.

Issue Index







#0

Opporknockitytoons: "The Itsy-Bitsy Teeny-Weeny yellow Polka Dot Bikini (Redux)" - 9 pages
Story & Pencils by Deal Whitley; Inks by
Monika Livingston

Ruthy wears her new bikini to the beach, creating devasting reactions from everybody — except for her boyfriend, Wendell.

"Let Us Prey" - 3 pages
Story & Art by Jay Shell
The chase of hunter and hunted gets complicated when a fox aids a rabbit from a dangerous competitor.

"Me Volution" - 9 pages
Story & Art by Roberta Gregory
Throughout evolution, survival of the fittest begins with... me!

Mad Raccoons: "Orly and Poppyseed" - 4 pages Story & Art by Cathy Hill Cousin Lemur explains about "mud passionate luv".

"Floppity Goes Berserk" - 9 pages
Story & Art by Tom Stazer
Think it's fun to be one of those costumed 'toons doing PR duty at the mall? So did Febrille... until he snapped.

Patrick Rabbit: The Winged Tiger" - 7 pages
Story & Art by Phil Yeh
An environmental pantomine, wherein Patrick
discovers a paradisical island floating in the sky.

Vixy Vid: "Bridge Club Crisis" - 3 pages
Story & Art by Will Faust
The classic satire: little Bobby's rabies causes a
domestic crisis! Thank heavens for Carnco's
Abbatoire In A Sack!

"Flashback" - 4 pages
Story & Art by Dan Steffan
Were the sixties really that good — or are we just
getting old?

"Don Gato" - 9 pages
Story & Art by Tracy Kazaleh
When a cat foolishly dies proclaiming his true
love, it takes a greater love to bring him back: fish!

"Over the Sea, Let's Go, Men!" - 12 pages
Story by Dean Graf; Art by Terrie Smith
A young vixen disguises herself as a sailor and
goes to sea to find a husband; but finds to her
dissappointment that her ship is manned by
perfect gentlemen — who may not be who they
appear to be either!

#1 Jan 1995

Princess Leandra "Sin and Salvation" - 20

Story & art by Jay Shell
Leandra pin-up by Jay Shell
A brave princess dares to challenge a monster in order to free her fether from captivity, unaware that the cachery awaits her if she makes the attempt.

#2 M# 1995

Cover by Darko Maran
Sergei: "Kingdom of the Blind" - 12 pages
Story & art by Darko Macan
Mercenary bear in a post-technological world
stumbles across a village of blind people, who
mistake him for a thief.

Robert & Katrina: untitled - 1 page by Kris Kreutzman

Freefall: untitled - 1 page by Mark Stanley

"A Very Short Visit to a Very Small World" - 2
pages
Story & art by Roy Pounds
A difference in size can lead to serious misunderstandings...

"Experiencing Conceptual Difficulties" - 7 pages
Story & Art by Bill Fortier
Two mice discuss the Fuzzy Logic of their position in the furry comic industry.

#3 May 1995

Cover by Kris Kreutzman; colored by Tom Verre Sergei: "An Old Story" - 12 pages
Story & art by Darko Macan
Sergei, while dealing with other mercenaries and treacherous employers, must teach an eager rabbit child the true meaning of being a mercenary.

Robert & Katrina: "Deadline Blues" - 1 page by Kris Kreutzman

Story by Marc Schirmeister, and by Kjartan
Arnorsson

When your dog won't take a bath, there's a solution: you get him a service where the bath is administered by female dogs. Of course, when that only encourages him to get dirty faster, you have a whole new problem...

Zonie: untitled - page by Mike McMurry

July 1995

Cover by Roy Pounds
Sergei: "The Holy Man" - 12 pages
tory & art by Darko Macan
Sergei stumbles across a body man who dispenses wisdom to all who come to him... by saying nothing at all.

Robert & Katrina: "Deadline Diversions" - 2
pages
by kins Kreutzman

Freefall: untitled - 1 page by Mark Stanley

"A Shape-Changer's Tale" - 4 pages
Story & art by Roy Pounds
A curious woodland creature shares a special
bond with her forest... and with the hunter who
trespasses.

Fangs of K'aath: "A Fish Story" - 7 pages Story by Paul Kidd; Art by Terry Loh Sandrhi the Storyteller takes on temporary duty as a food taster in the market... and she intends to taste it all!

Zonie: untitled - 1 page by Mike McMurry

#5 Sept 1995

Cover by Tom Verre

The Monkey Tales: "The Very Cool Hero" - 14

pages

Story & art by Riley

Martial arts action as the Monkey Prince rescues a young boy from an ancient foe.

Robert & Katrina: "Racketball Runaround" - 4
pages
by Kris Kreutzman
A misserved ball causes Katrina to raise a
racket... right over Robert's head, if she catches
him!

Freefall: untitled - 1 page by Mark Stanley

"The Day's Just Dragon" - 3 pages Story & art by Roy Pounds Not all dragons bear bad tidings.

Zonie: untitled - 1 page by Mike McMurry

#6 Nov 1995

Cover by Donna Barr

Hader & the Colonel: Part V - 12 pages
Story & art by Donna Barr

Hader and the Colonel's story contines from its

previous appearances in other publications: as
part of their tasks, the Colonel must kill and claim

he tusks of a boar. but the humans are also
hunting — and not just for boar!

Robert & Katrine "Deadline Dialog" - 2 pages by Kris Kreutzman

pin-the - 1 page by High andez

stupid Penguins: "The Beaky Gourmet" - 7
pages
Story & and by Riley
They're crude, they're vulgar, they live in
Apprecia, and they're the royal family! They're
having a whale of a time, which is not what they

were tooking for Zonie: untitled - 1 age

by Mike McMurry

#7 Jan 1996

Frontiers: First, Chapter 1 - 10 pages
Story & art by Adrian Kleinbergen
A prejudiced Felin pilot and her rodent co-pilot try
to put their difference aside as they undertake a
recon mission. But then the plane flies into
disaster...

Robert & Katrina: "The Grenadier" - 2 pages by Kris Kreutzman

pin-up - 1 page by Erik Enervold

Zonie: "Twilight Zonie" - 7 pages
by Mark Stanley
Crossover time! Zonie the coyote dates Flo the
bio-engineered Red Wolf from Freefall! Sweet
dreams, chili, and dead horses can't come
between these two young lovers!

Freefall: untitled - 1 page by Mark Stanley

#8 -Mar 1996

Cover by Mike McMurry

Frontiers: Part I, Chapter 2 - 10 pages
Story & art by Adrian Kleinbergen
Marta and William struggle to survive their harsh
terrain following their crash, but their greater
danger isn't from the awful heat, but from Marta's
lingering bigotry.

Robert & Katrina: "Shock Treatment" - 2 pgs by Kris Kreutzman

Zonie: untitled - 1 page by Mike McMurry

"Problems With Antrhopomorphism" - 2 pgs by Kjartan Arnorrson It's sometimes difficult to remember where the line is drawn...

Hader & the Colonel: "Bath Day" - 7 pgs
Story & art by Donna Barr
The companions take time from their quests, as
the Colonel introduces his friend to the joys a

good, cold bath in the lake! Brr!

#9 -May 1996

Cover by Mark Stanley
Frontiers: Part I, Chapter 3 - 10 pages
Story & art by Adrian Kleinbergen
After much back-breaking work, William and
Jarta get their plane repaired enough for a return

Marta get their plane repaired enough for a return flight. Unfortunately, there's only enough fuel to get one of them back to base...

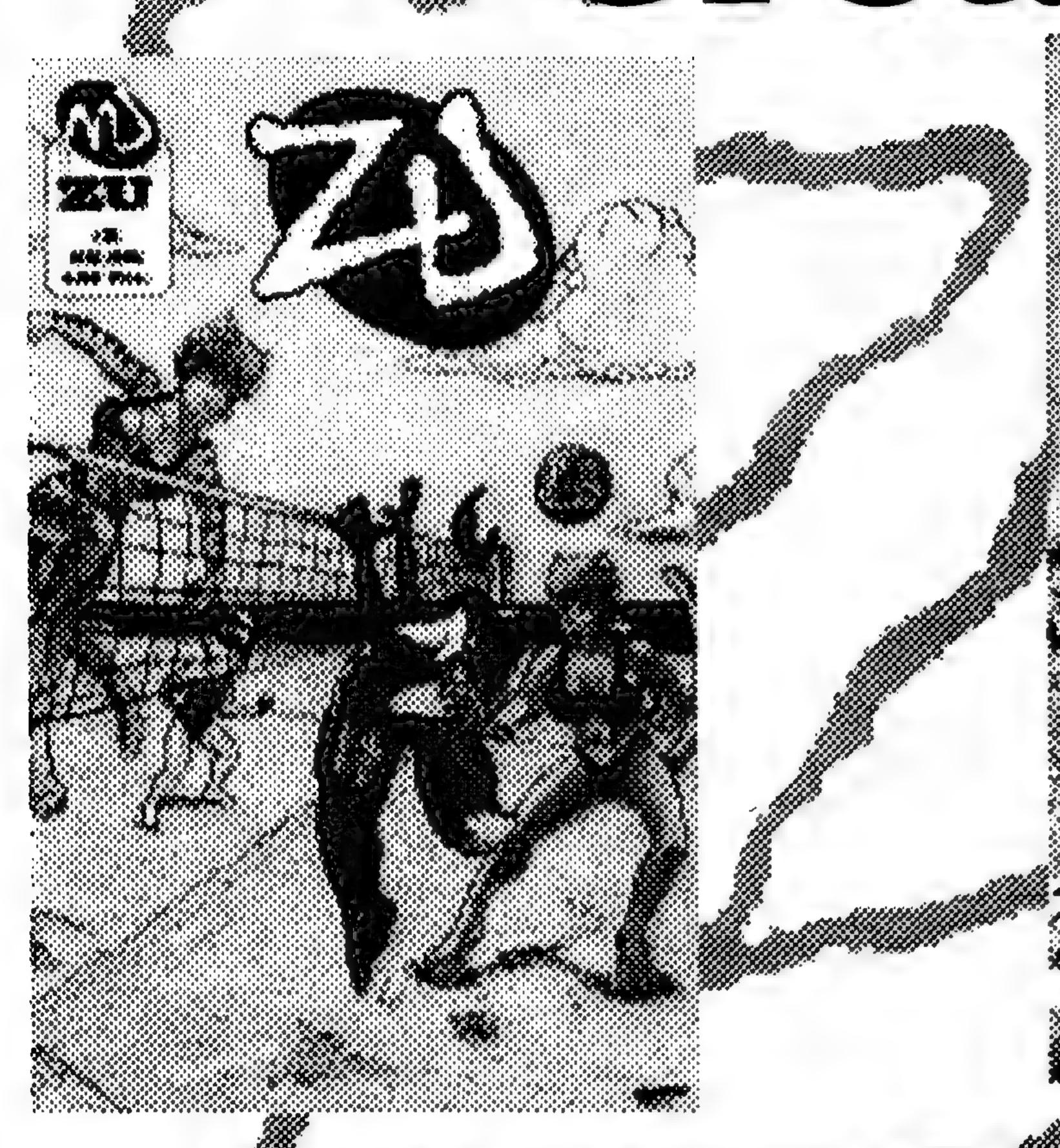
Robert & Katrina: "Deadline in Black & White" - 2

pgs by Kris Kreutzman

Zonie: untitled - 1 page by Mike McMurry

Sheffield: "The Reluctant Horse Thief" - 4 pgs
Story & art by Jay Shell
Reynard convinces Sheffield that the Dragon has
an invaluable treasure worth stealing. But
"treasure' is in the eye of the beholder...

Greator Index



KJARTAN ARNORRS

"Problems With Anthropomorphism" - (#8; 2

DONNA BARR

Cover (#6)

Hader & the Colonel: Part V - (#6; 12 pages; story & art)

Hader & the Colonel: "Bath Day" - (#8; 7 pages; story & art)

ERIK ENERVOLD

Pin-up - (#7; 1 page)

WILL FAUST

Vixy Vid: "Bridge Club Crisis" - (#0; 3 pages; story & art)

BILL FORTIER

"Experiencing Conceptual Difficulties" - (#2; 7 pages; story & art)

DEAN GRAF

"Over The Seas, Let's Go, Men!" - (#0; 12 pages; story)

ROBERTA GREGORY

"Me Volution" - (#0; 9 pages; story & art)

HERNANDEZ

Pin-up - (#6; 1 page)

Mad Raccoons: "Orly and Poppyseed" - (#0; 4 pages, story & art)

TRACY KAZALEH

"Don Gato" - (#0; 9 pages; story & art)

PAUL KIDD

Fangs of K'aath: "A Fish Story" - (#4; 7 pages; story)

ADRIAN KLEINBERGEN

Cover (#7)

Frontiers: Part I, Chapter 1 - (#7; 10 pages; story

& art)

Frontiers: Part I, Chapter 2 - (#8; 10 pages; story

& art)

Frontiers: Part I, Chapter 3 - (#9; 10 pages; story

KRIS KREUTZMAN

Cover (#3; pen art only)

Robert & Katrina: "untitled" - (#2; 1 page; story &

art)

Robert & Katrina: "Deadline Blues" - (#3; page;

story & art)

Robert & Katrina: "Deadline Diversions" - (#4; 2

pages; story & art) Robert & Katrina: "Racketball Runaround" - (#5; 4 pages; story & art)

Robert & Katrina: "Deadline Dialog" - (#6; 2

pages; story & art)

Robert & Katrina: "The Grenadier" - (#7; 2 pages; story & art)

Robert & Katrina: "Shock Treatment" - (#8; 2 pages; story & art)

Robert & Katrina: "Deadline in Black & White" -(#9; 2 pages; story & art)

MONIKA LIVINGSTON

Opporknockitytoons: "The Itsy-Bitsy Teeny-Weeny yellow Polka Dot Bikini (Ředux)" - (#0; 9 pages; inks)

TERRY LOH

Fangs of K'aath: "A Fish Story" - (#4; 7 pages;

DARKO MACAN

Sergei: "Kingdom of the Blind" - (#2; 12 pages; story & art)

Sergei: "An Old Story" - (#3; 12 pages; story &

Sergei: "The Holy Man" - (#4; 12 pages; story &

KEN MACKLIN Wever#8

MIKE McMURRY

Cover (#8)

Zonie untitled - (#3, 1 page; story & art) Zonie: untitled - (#4; 1 page; story & art) Zonie: untitled - (#5; 1 page; stor & art) Zonie: untitled - (#6; 1 page; story & art Zonie: untitled - (#8; 1 page story & and Zonie: untitled - (#9; 1 page; story & att)

ROY POUNDS II

Cover (#4)
"A Very Short Visit to a Very Small Flanet" - (#2; 2 pages, story & and "A Shape-Changer" Tale" - (#444 pages; store "The Day's Just Dragon" - (# pages; story &

RILEY

The Monkey Tales: "The Very Cool Hero" - (#5; 14 pages; story & art) Stupid Penguins: "The Beaky Gourmet" - (#6; 7 pages; story & art)

MARC SCHIRMEISTER

"The Dog Laundry" - (#3; 9 pages; story)

JAY SHELL

Cover (#1)

"Let Us Pray" - (#0; 3 pages; story & art) Princess Leandra: "Sin and Salvation" - (#1; 20 pages: story & art)

Sheffield: "The Reluctant Horse Thief" - (#9; 4

pages: story & art)

TERRIE SMITH

"Over The Seas, Let's Go, Men!" - (#0; 12 pages;

MARK STANLEY

Cover (#9)

Freefall: untitled - (#2; 1 page; story & art) Freefall: untitled - (#4; 1 page; story & art) Freefall: untitled - (#5; 1 page; story & art) Freefall: untitled page; story & art) Freefall: untitled - (#8; page; story & art) Zonie: "Twilight onie" - (#777 pages; story & art)

TOM STAZER

Floppity Goes Berserk" - (#9; 9 pages; story & art)

DALSTEFFAN

- (#2; 4 pages; story & art)

TOMVERRE

Cever (#3 polors only Cover#5)

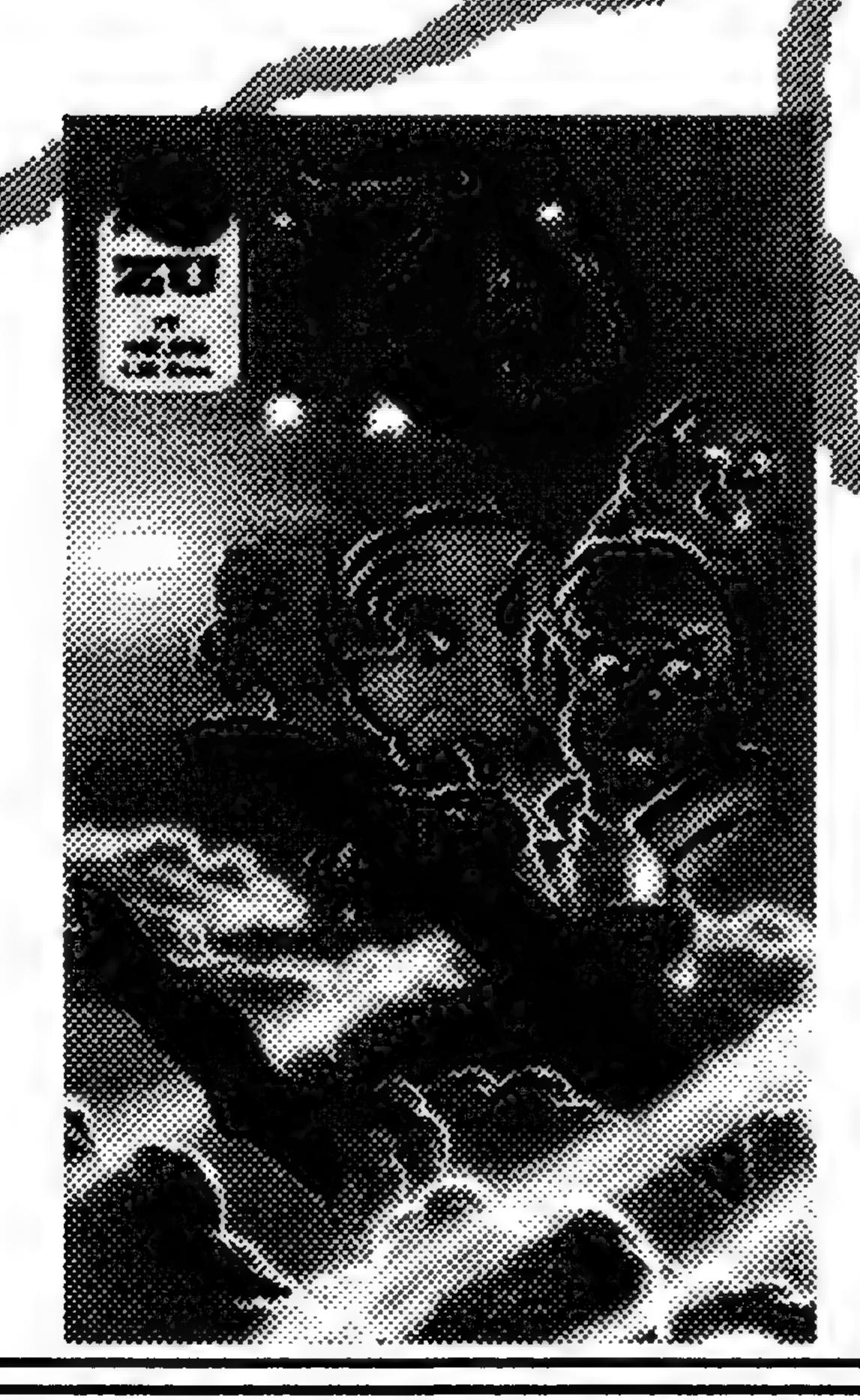
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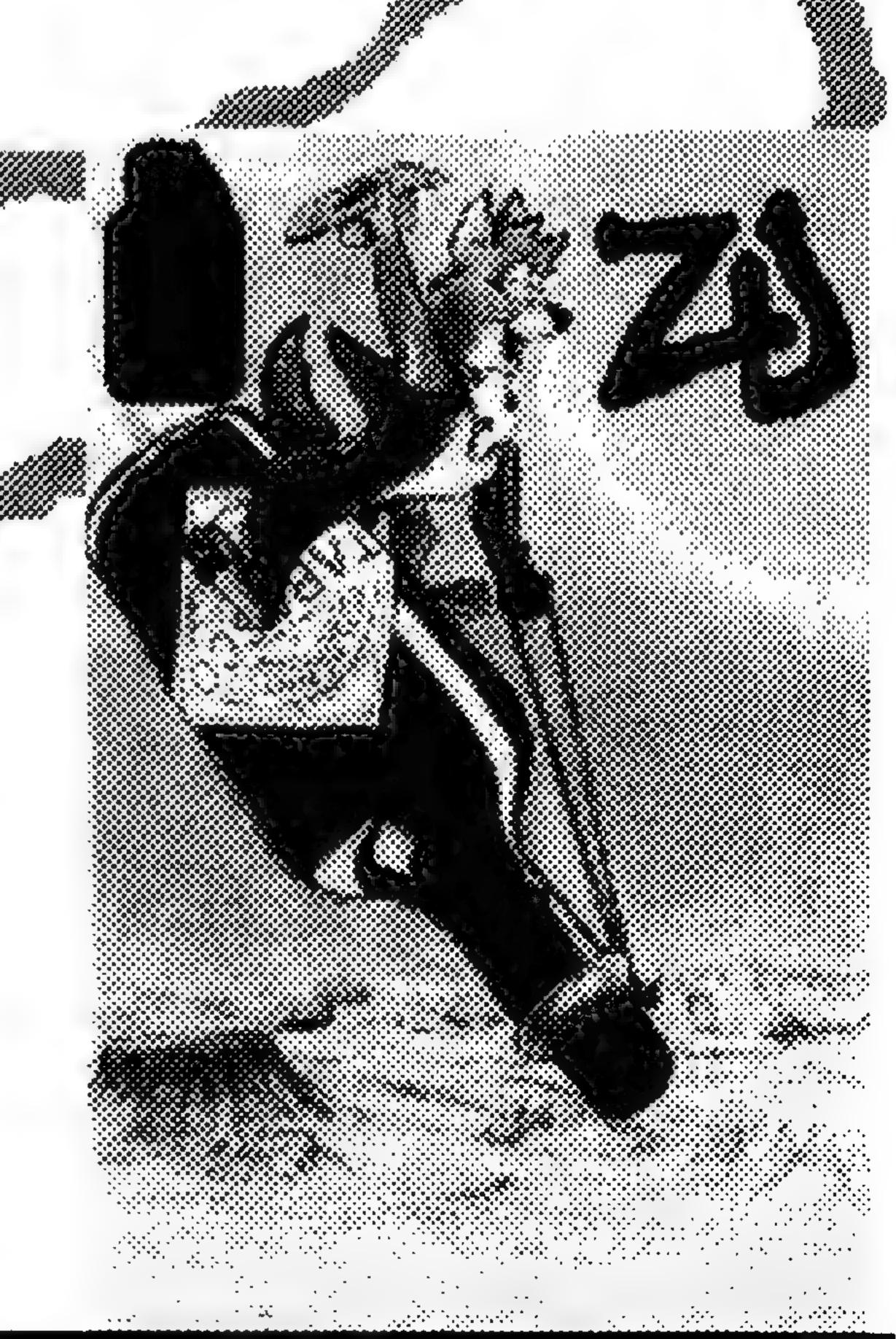
Opporknock tytoons: "The sy-Bitsy" Weerly yellow olke Dot Bikini (Redux)" pages; story & pencils)

PHILZEH

Patrick Rabbit: The Tymg Tiger (#0; 7 pages; story & art)







Series Index

Fangs of K'aath by Paul Kidd & Terry Loh (ZU #4)

Freefall by Mark Stanley (ZU #'s 2, 4, 5, 7, 8; cover: #9)

Frontiers by Adrian Kleinbergen (ZU #'s 7 - 9; cover: #7)



Hader & the Colonel by Donna Barr (ZU #'s 6, 8; cover: #6)

Mad Raccoons
by Cathy Hill
(ZU #0)

by Riley (ZU #5)

Opporknockityteons
by Deal Whitley, with Monika Livingston
(ZU #0)

Patrick Rabbit by Phil Yeh (ZU #0)

Princess Leandra by Jay Shell (ZU #1: cover: #1) Robert & Katrina

W Kris K eutzman

20 #2 - 9 cover: #3)

Serge by Darko Lacan (ZU #'s 2 - 4; Cover: #2)

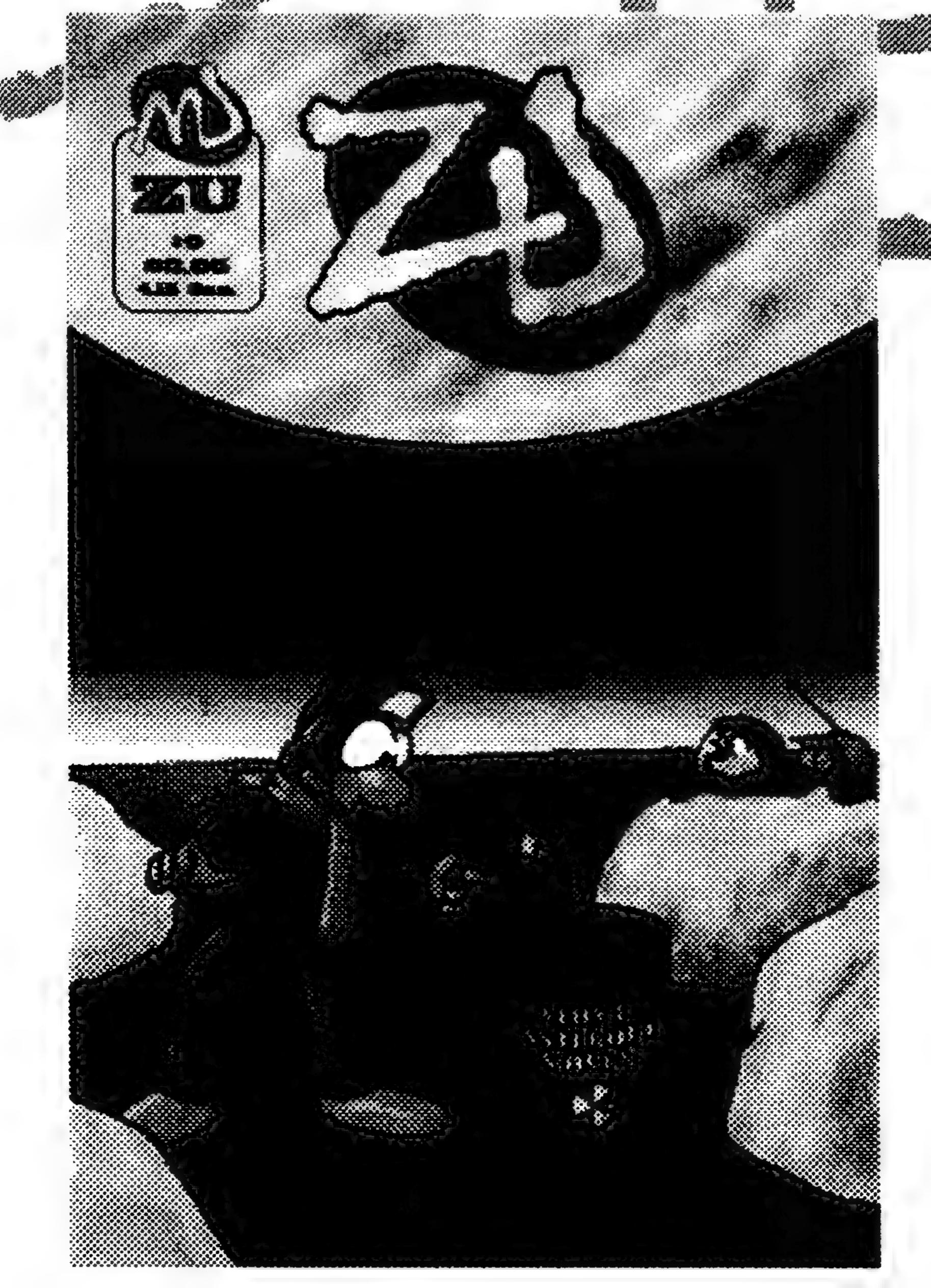
> Sheffield y Jay Shell (ZU #9)

Stuple Penguins
by Piley
(ZU16)

Vixy Vix Faux (ZU #0)

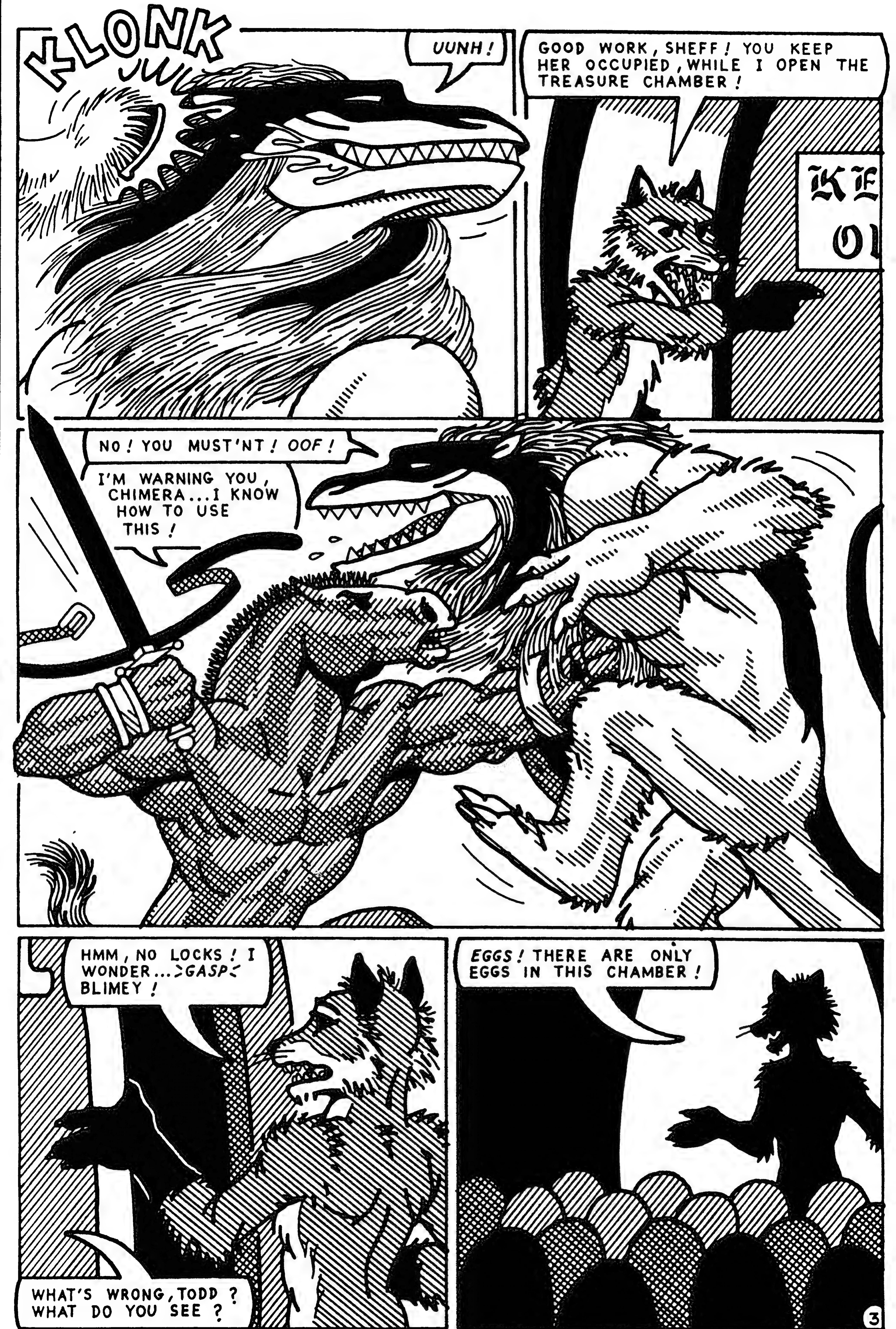
Tonie

by Mike McMury
(ZU #'s 3 - 6, 8, 9; cover: #8)
by Mark Stanley
(ZU #7)















ANIMARIL CRACKERS

Send all mail to ZU, MU Press, 5014-D Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98105. Or send e-mail to e.vick1@genie.com

A couple of quick notes before we get to the letterpouch: A while ago I recommended South Fur Lands from Australia, and I gave prices for individual copies. A quick e-mail from the gang downunder pointed out something that I should have already known, and that I should point out now. When ordering copies from them, please, you must pay in Australian currency, not American. There are a lot of complications involved in cashing foreign checks and money orders and in exchanging international rates, so please help simplify matters by obtaining an international money order, or in somehow sending an Australian check. Or you can check with Mailbox Books (P O Box 1278, Roslyn, PA 19001) and see if they are carrying the book here in the states; I can almost assure you that they probably are.

And this issue concludes the first act to Frontiers; but the story itself isn't finished. Adrian is presently working on the next three-chapter act, and we'll be scheduling it for sometime early next year. So don't be concerned; Marla and William will be return-

ing.

Okay, it's been seven issues and I guess I owe you a letter. Let's start with the most recent and work back.

Frontiers: Adrian Kleinbergen has come a long way from The Grapes Of Rat in Albedo v. 1, #12, and I hope he never goes back. Oh, it was well-written and drawn and all that. It was also one of the ugliest, nastiest things I'd ever read.

As for this story, the racism angle has been used with morphs before, but that doesn't mean it can't be used again. Two notable twists: first, rather than the past war being cats versus mice, it was cats and mice versus someone else, with the mice allegedly being used as Colonial cannon-fodder. Second, there are individuals of both races who consider their race to be superior. God, good. And there is a good amount of character development in the first chapter.

Artwise, I'm afraid that Mr. Kleinbergen hasn't done his homework on aeroplanes. The ship depicted is obviously based on the WW II-era Blohm & Voss BV 141, which is good since it was an interesting concept. But he's ignored the aerodynamic concepts that made the unorthodox design work. He's reversed the layout, which would compound rather than compensate for the engine torque. The wings should be of approximately equal span measured from the engine/tail boom nacelle. Also, the port rudder/ tailplane section would be in the turret gunner's field of fire. (Speaking of which, when Captain Fireclaw tells her groundcrew to check the rudder, she would specify port or starboard.) The crew nacelle is too spacious and sparse for a military plane. And most important, judging from his position, Lt. Longburrow is not Captain Fireclaw's copilot; he's her observer. That's a key point, because is Lothar was flying the same model aircraft, there was little if anything that an observer could do to make the plane crash on a normal approach.

(At this point, we have no idea what craft Lothar was flying, or if it were the same as Captain Fireclaw's; nor do we have any cause to assume that it was. -CPAM)

l could nit-pick forever, which doesn't really add anything of value to the discussion. On the upside, the ship has gracefullyshaped flying surfaces rather than the squared-off surfaces of the BV 141. Very attractive. There's a lot of background detail in the bar scene. The uniforms are practical and believable. (And in two distinct styles. Is the Felin Empire made up of two or more nationstates?) And, most notably, Captain Fireclaw doesn't have a massive pair of boobs overflowing her flight jacket. I'm apparently in the

minority, but I fail to see the attraction of a woman - human or morph - who is "endowed" to the point of deformity.

Oops! I've gone on and on about one feature in an anthology book. What about everything else? Well, Robert and Katrina are nice, likable people. There's a dearth of those in the Mainstream. And I like the technique of breaking the fourth wall and talking to the reader. Zonie is not "coyote-ugly". He is cute and cuddly. Do the Dakin people know about him? Hader & the Colonel appeared once in Menagerie. Part V is not "right where the story left off'. Y'think we's stoopid er somethin'?

(No, but the editor is apparently three geese short of a flock. You are correct; the intervening chapters were published in a fanzine by Donna, before we picked up on the fifth chapter... a fact which should have been double-checked beforehand. -CPAM)

I missed #4 (I'll pick it up soon), but Riley's Monkey Prince sounds good. I used to dump on him about accuracy over in Furriough, and I hope I'm not the one who scared him off. As for Stupid Penguins, ummm... he certainly is diversifying, isn't he? Seriously, it is charming in a crude and tasteless sort of way, but I'm still waiting to see Yuji.

Sergei was definitely something different. This was the first time I've ever seen a comic book put a - you'll pardon the expression - human face on the ol' post-apocalyptic world bit. (Second, if you count Holland & Wilbur's Lizards, but I got the impression that was post-technology without a war.) And considering how things are going in Mr. Macan's homeland, it's reassuring that he can still write with some hope. My favorite episode so far was "The Holy Man". Beats some of 'em we've got today.

Going back to #1, Jay Shell's art is good, but it's so unusual that it's hard to get used to. (I first saw his work in a Red Shetland portfolio, and I was ready to strangle him by the time I decoded his signature. "9-8...??") This is just one fanboy's opinion, but I think it would benefit from the moderate application of some Zips.

(And here is one professional's opinion: no, it would not. -CPAM)

By the way, did you try putting the cover of ZU #1 next to Furrlough #26, which came out at about the same time? Variations on a theme, no? At least Leandra rides like a lady.

> John Henry Sain Medford, OR

Jay's art is very distinctive, yes, I will agree. I've always found it remarkable that something so lifelike could be constructed of such tight and rigid linework. But where you're having difficulties accepting it, I relish it. Jay never disappoints me, neither in execution nor in professionality. As for adding Zips to his linework, God forbid! There is some work that Zip adds greatly to, such as Adrian's work on Frontiers, and other work such as Jay's where it would be in conflict with the art. Jay's already laid down strong grays in carefully placed cross-hatching, and has placed his contrast with sharply defined blacks. What purpose would adding Zips serve?

Adrian admits that he was off in the plane design. He was unable to find a good art reference, and was working strictly from his memories of having seen the plane design on a model box ten or more years ago. Given that, it's remarkable that he was as close as he was. Still, it serves to remind us that when dealing with props or background details, you have to be as accurate as the work will allow, because someone will always catch you.

-CPAM-



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